

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 8-14 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-6 and 15 are allowed.¹ Claims 1, 7, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent JP48-9201, hereinafter referred to as JP'201. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Adachi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,962), hereinafter referred to as Adachi.

§ 102(b) Rejections (JP'201) - Claims 1, 7, 17, and 18

Applicant cancels claims 1, 7, 17, and 18, as indicated herein, without prejudice or disclaimer.

§ 102(b) Rejection (Adachi) - Claim 16

Applicant cancels claim 16, as indicated herein, without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

¹ The Examiner appears to mistakenly indicate on page 3 of the Office Action that claims 2-5, 6, and 15 are dependent upon a rejected base claim, however, claim 2 is independent and claims 3-6 and 15 depend, either directly or indirectly, therefrom. Therefore, all of claims 2-5, 6, and 15 are allowed and do not appear to need to be amended.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Application No.: 09/688,867

Attorney Docket No. Q61035

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: April 24, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diallo T. Crenshaw", written in black ink.

Diallo T. Crenshaw
Registration No. 52,778